

**PRESS RELEASE FROM
PRESIDING OFFICER WILLIAM LINDSAY**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
June 22, 2010**



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Lindsay Creates Legislative Committee To Examine Ethics Commission's Role

Lindsay Hopes Committee Can Restore Public Confidence in Commission

HAUPPAUGE, NY, JUNE 22, 2010 – Suffolk County Legislature Presiding Officer William J. Lindsay today announced that he is forming a special legislative committee to determine exactly what the Suffolk County Ethics Commission does and how it does it.

“Several incidents over the last two months have raised troubling questions about the role and operation of the county’s Ethics Commission,” said Presiding Officer Lindsay. “In fact, questions have been raised about whether the Commission has taken on a new and more aggressive role recently.”

Several proposals to change the way the Ethics Commission operates have been made and more are contemplated, including a bill introduced by Legislator Ricardo Montano bill to authorize the use of outside counsel for the commission, a bill that was approved at today’s meeting.

Given the questions that have been raised and the changes contemplated for the Commission, Presiding Officer Lindsay said that it is imperative that the County Legislature know in detail how the Ethics Commission operates as the legislature considers whether or not to change that method of operation.

“The Ethics Commission must engender complete confidence among the public about its total impartiality and I believe that confidence may have been shaken by recent developments,” said Presiding Officer Lindsay. “I hope that this legislative committee can restore that confidence by making clear what it is the Ethics Commission does and making any recommendations necessary to change the way the Commission operates to make sure the Commission is absolutely beyond reproach.”

Presiding Officer Lindsay has appointed Legislators Nowick, Kennedy, Stern and Montano to the Special Legislative Committee which he himself will chair.